

MIMOSA BAHAMENSIS, A BAHAMA - YUCATAN DISJUNCT

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An interesting shrub with attractive, unique pods is known in the Bahamas as Mimosa bahamensis Benth. and on the Yucatan Peninsula as Mimosa hemiendyta Rose & Robinson. After examining specimens, including the types, I see no reason for maintaining two species. All material should be assigned to M. bahamensis.

In North American Flora, as Pteromimosa, Britton and Rose gave as contrasting, key characters: "Legume sessile or nearly so; leaflets glabrous," for M. bahamensis, and "Legume long-stipitate; leaflets pubescent when young," for M. hemiendyta. These might be good characters if consistent and supported by other distinctions, but they are not.

The holotype of M. bahamensis, a flowering specimen, bears young, pubescent leaflets; the older leaflets are subglabrous, often retaining some pubescence along the midvein. In general, specimens from the Bahamas are fairly uniform. Collections from the Yucatan Peninsula are more variable as to degree of pubescence and length of fruit stipe. No specimens are known from the Greater Antilles, lying between those two areas (Fig. 1).

The disjunct distribution of this species is noteworthy, possibly the result of human transport. It seems unlikely that disseminules carried by natural agents, such as wind and water, would bypass Cuba. A ship, however, could easily have carried viable material from one area to the other. It is my guess that the direction was from Yucatan to the Bahamas. Because of the unusual pods, fruiting material or branches suitable for propagation could have been collected, either intentionally or casually, and later dispersed as an intended planting or accidentally, even by shipwreck. That the two areas of occurrence might be relicts of a greater range seems unlikely in view of the fact that the land areas of the southern Bahamas and the Yucatan Peninsula are younger than similar limestone areas of Cuba where, for example, M. bahamensis would be expected but, apparently, is lacking.

Mimosa bahamensis does not show obviously close relationship with any one species although, for a given character, similarities to other species can be noted. As mentioned in the original description of M. hemiendyta, the fruit most nearly resembles that of M. lacerata Rose.

MIMOSA BAHAMENSIS Benth. Journ. Bot. Hook. 4: 408. 1842: Hook.

Icon. ser. 3, 9: pl. 1802. 1889. Type: Swainson s.n. Bahamas.

Mimosa hemiendyta Rose & Robins. in Rose, Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 8: 32. 1903. Type: Goldman 513. Mexico.

Pteromimosa bahamensis (Benth.) Britton in Britton & Rose, Fl. No. Amer. 23: 172. 1928.

Pteromimosa hemiendyta (Rose & Robins.) Britton in Britton & Rose, Fl. No. Amer. 23: 172. 1928.

Shrub or small tree, to about 9 m. tall; branches and inflorescence densely ferrugino-tomentulose when young, glabrate with age, terete, sparsely aculeate with recurved spines 1-2 mm. long; leaves eglandular, with 2-5 pairs of pinnae, the pinnae with 4-8 pairs of leaflets; stipules acicular, 1-4 mm. long; stipels (?) paired, gland-like, about 0.5 mm. long; leaflets suborbicular to oblong, about 3-7 mm. long and 2.5 mm. wide, the surfaces glabrous or puberulent with crispate hairs, the apex obtuse or retuse, the base cuneate to subcordate, asymmetrical, the margin entire, the midvein slightly excentric, the secondary veins inconspicuous; flowers numerous, pink to whitish, in globose heads 8-15 (-20) mm. in diameter at anthesis; calyx puberulent, 1 mm. long or less with 4 or 5 acute teeth; corolla glabrous, about 2 mm. long, 4- or 5-lobed; stamens 8 or 10 with filaments 4-8 mm. long; fruit ferrugino-tomentose, usually 4-8-articulate, oblong, acuminate, 4-7.5 cm. long including stipe 2-7 mm. long, and 12-20 mm. wide including lacerate margins 1-5 mm. wide; seeds lenticular, compressed, grayish-brown, 3.5 mm. long and 2.5 mm. broad.

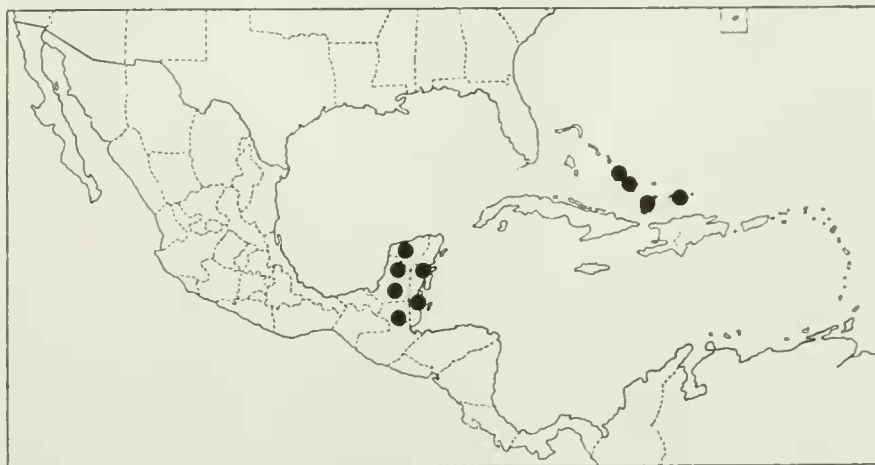


Fig. 1 - Geographic distribution of Mimosa bahamensis Benth.



M.S. del et lith.

*Mimosa bahamensis*, Benth.

Fig. 2 - Copy of plate 1802, Hooker's *Icones Plantarum*, series 3, 9. 1889.

Specimens examined:

MEXICO:

Campeche: Apagote, near Yohaltún, Goldman 513 (GH fragment, US holotype of M. hemiendyta). Tuxpeña, Lundell 825 (A, F, GH, K, NY, US), 1113 (A, F, GH, NY, US). Tenabo, Janzen 1114 (US). 40 mi. E. of Campeche, Saunders 104 (US), 118 (US).

Yucatan: Without exact locality, Gaumer 23965 (A, BM, F, GH, K, UPS, US), 24261 (F, US); Steggerda 12 (F). Izamal, Gaumer 738 (A, BM, F, K, NY, UPS, US), 23176 (F), 23186 (F), 23405 (F, GH, NY, US). Suitún, Gaumer 23430 (F, NY, US). Mérida, Schott 895 (BM); Collins 36 (F, US). Mérida-Progreso road, km. 23, Lundell & Lundell 8196 (A, F, US). Pisté - Yokdzonoot road, Lundell & Lundell 7875 (A, F, US). Pisté, Steggerda 108 (F). Itzimná, Greenman 337 (F). Uxmal, Steere 2076 (F); Rudd 2031 (US). Chichen Itzá, Steere 1098 (BM, F), 1421 (BM, F). 25 km. S. of Uman on highway 180, Roe, Roe, & Mori 1310 (NY).

Quintana Roo: Chichankanab, Gaumer 1934 (BM, F, GH, US). Felipe Carillo Puerto, Janzen 1087 (US).

GUATEMALA:

Peten: Dos Arroyos, Bartlett 12109 (US). Carmelita, Egler 42-210 (F).

BRITISH HONDURAS: Without exact locality, Heyder 13 (US).

Corozal: "High ridge", Gentle 436 (A, BM, F, US). Freshwater Creek Reserve, Pelly 6 (F).

Orange Walk: Irish Creek, Record B.H. 39 (NY, US). Hillbank, Winzerling 104 (F, US), s.n. (K). Honey Camp, Lundell 44 (F, K).

BAHAMAS: Without exact locality, Swainson s.n. (K holotype).

Acklin: Brace 4248 (F, NY); Britton & Millspaugh 6172 (F, NY).

Caicos: West Caicos, Wilson 7753 (F, K, NY). North Caicos, Kew, & vicinity, Wilson 7706 (F, GH, K, NY). South Caicos, Millspaugh & Millspaugh 9226 (F, NY); Wilson 7590 (F, K); Proctor 8944 (A).

Fortune: Eggers 3806 (BM, K, US); Brace 89 (F), 443 (NY); Rothrock 265 (F, NY); Hitchcock s.n. in 1890 (F).

Inagua: Hitchcock s.n. in 1890 (F); Nash & Taylor 891 (F, NY), 1273 (US), 1444 (NY).

Long Cay: Brace 443 (F, K), 40001 (F, NY, US).

Rum Cay: Brace 3984 (F, NY); Fairchild 21 (A, K, US).

Watling (San Salvador): Wilson 7299 (F, GH, K, US).

Local names: Boxcatzim, saccatzim, sac haasin, sackatzim, zaccatzim (Yucatan); bastard logwood, catseem logwood, citsim, katsim, logwood brush, white logwood brush (British Honduras); haulback, holdback (Bahamas).